

SYLLABUS¹
Pastoral Epistles 12-820
Fall 2011

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T 2:30-5:30 pm, Room 301
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Course Description:

This course is designed as a historical and exegetical exploration of I and II Timothy and Titus which will pay special attention to this literature as a catalyst of the situation of certain Christian communities by the end of the first and beginning of the second century C.E. Some of the themes that will be investigated are: ecclesiastical organization, relationship between orthodoxy and heresy, role of the family in society and of women in the household and in the church, relations between church and society, place given to eschatological thinking, etc.

Required Textbooks:

Bassler, Jouette M, *1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.

Harding, Mark, *What Are They Saying About the Pastoral Epistles?* New York/Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2001.

Tamez, Elsa, *Struggles for Power in Early Christianity: A Study of the First Letter to Timothy*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2007.

Young, Frances, *The Theology of the Pastoral Letters*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

Supplemental Reading:

Johnson, L.T, *Letters to Paul's Delegates: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus*. New Testament in Context Series: Trinity Press, 1996.

Kidd, Reggie M., *Wealth and Beneficence in the Pastoral Epistles*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1990.

MacDonald, Dennis R., *The Legend and the Apostle: The Battle for Paul in Legend and Canon*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983.

¹ Please notice that this syllabus can change. The final version will be handed in the first day of classes. The textbooks, though, will remain the same.

Schüssler Fiorenza, Elisabeth, *In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins*. New York: Crossroad, 1983.

_____, *The Power of the Word. Scripture and the Rhetoric of Empire*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2007.

Verner, David, *The Household of God*. Chico, CA: Scholars Press, 1983.

Requirements:

1. Write a book review: *Struggles for Power in Early Christianity* (15%)
2. Write by-weekly responses to assigned readings. See schedule (15%)
3. Write an exegesis of one of the passages being studied. Make a 20 minutes presentation in class (20%)
4. Write a final paper, limit 20 pages double space, on a theme chosen in consultation with the instructor. Due date: 12/9 (40%)
5. Be present and participate in class having read the assigned materials for the day (10%)

Some helpful web pages:

<http://www.pastoralepistles.com/CategoryView,category,Pastoral%2BEpistles.aspx>

<http://depts.drew.edu/jhc/pervoep.html>

http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/pastoral-epistles_porter.pdf

<http://www.thesacredpage.com/2008/11/pastoral-epistles-and-circumcision.html>

<http://catholic-resources.org/Bible/Paul-Pastorals.htm>

<http://people.uncw.edu/zervosg/Pr236/Ehrman23.htm>

<http://www.jcu.edu/Bible/Index.htm#BibleNet>

<http://virtualreligion.net/vri/nt.html>

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/>

Course outline:

- 9/6** Introduction to the course
The Pastoral Epistles: Scripture or Script? Divine revelation or human Rhetoric? Archetype or prototype?
*Ideas based on *In Memory of Her*, pp.26-36, and *The Power of the Word*, pp.35-68, both by Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza (on reserve)
- 9/13** The authenticity of the Pastoral Epistles: author and audience
Pauline authority: internal and external evidence
Texts: 1 Tim 1:1-2; 2 Tim 1:1-14; Titus 1:1-4
- Support reading:
a) “Revisiting the Pastoral Epistles” by Michael Prior, C.M.
(**Write a critical evaluation. On reserve**).
b) *What Are They Saying About the Pastoral Epistles?* Chapters 1 and 2.
- 9/20** The polemic against false teachers: the nature of the “heresy” and the character of the “heretics”
Texts: 1 Tim 1:3-7; 4:1-7; 6:3-10, 20
2 Tim 2:17-18; 3:1-9; 4:3-4
Titus 1:10-16; 3:9-11
- Support reading:
Chapter 5 of *What Are They Saying About the Pastoral Epistles?*
- 9/27** The role of women in church and society
Texts: 1 Tim 2:9-15; 3:11; 5:3-16
2 Tim 3:6-7; 4:19
Titus 2:3-5
- Support reading:
a) Pertinent passages in “1 Timothy,” “2Timothy,” and “Titus,” in *The Women’s Bible Commentary*, pp.353-56.
b) “The Pastoral Epistles,” in *Searching the Scriptures. A Feminist Commentary*, chapter 21. (**Write a critical evaluation**)
c) “The Acts of Paul and Thecla” (on reserve).
- 10/4** The sound teaching: content, provenance and transmission
Texts: 1 Tim 1:8-17; 2:3-7; 4:9-10
2 Tim 1:9-11; 2:1-10; 3:14-17
Titus 2:1-15; 3:4-7
- 10/11** Ecclesiastical organization: the ministries in the church of the Pastorals

Texts: 1 Tim 3:1-13; 5:17-25
Titus 1:5-9

Support reading: Jouette M. Bassler, "The Widow's Tale: A Fresh Look at 1 Tim 5:3-16." *JBL* 103 (1984) 23-41 (**Write a critical evaluation**)

10/18 Social provenance of the church of the Pastorals: the Christian family
Texts: 1 Tim 3: 14-15; 6:1-2, 17-19
Titus 2:1-10; 3:1-2

Support reading: Chapter 3 of *What Are They Saying About the Pastoral Epistles?*

10/25 Christology, liturgy and worship in the church of the Pastorals
Texts: 1 Tim 1:17; 2:1-15; 3:16; 6:13-16
2 Tim 1:9-10; 2:8, 11-13; 4:1, 18
Titus 3:4-7

Support reading: Jouette M. Bassler, "A Plethora of Epiphanies: Christology in the Pastoral Letters," *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin* XVII/3, New Series (1996) 310-325. (**Write a critical evaluation**)

11/1 On being a first century pastor: gender, character and ministry
Texts: 1 Tim 1:18-20; 4:12-16; 5:1-22; 6:11-14, 20-21
2 Tim 1:8; 2:1-10, 14-16, 22-26; 4:1-2, 5
Titus 1:5, 11, 13; 2:1, 6-8, 15

Support reading: *In Memory of Her*, pp.285-315

11/8 Eschatology in the Pastorals
Texts: 1 Tim 1:1; 4:8, 10; 6:14-15
2 Tim 1:18; 2:10; 4:1, 8, 18
Titus 2:13

Book review due today: Struggles for Power in Early Christianity

11/15 Social ethics in the Pastorals
Texts: 1 Tim 2:1-4; 3:7; 5:14; 6:1-2, 17-19
Titus 2:8-14; 3:1-2, 8, 14

Support reading: Chapter 4 of *What Are They Saying About the Pastoral Epistles*

11/29 The permanent value of the Pastoral Epistles: Problems and solutions

Support reading: Chapter 6 of *What Are They Saying About the Pastoral Epistles?*

12/6 Course wrap-up. Sharing of research.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Beker, J. Christiaan, *Heirs of Paul: Paul's legacy in the New Testament and in the Church today*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991.
- Blount, Brian K., General Editor, *True to Our Native Land. An African American New Testament Commentary*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2007.
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- Kartzow, Marianne Bjelland, *Gossip and Gender : Othering of Speech in the Pastoral Epistles*. Berlin; New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2009.
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